SISTERS' DEPARTMENT.

From Branch Presidents.

Adrian, Mo.—"We have twenty-six members; six honorary and twenty active."

Louisville, O.—"I think we have a very nice society; numbers nearly forty members."

St. James, Md.—"Give us a simple program that would be entertaining and edifying, and get us a little closer to the *Lord* and *his* will."

Roann, Ind.—"I feel it our duty for all of us to take a part in this grand work; it is good for us all; it lightens our hearts and gives us strength to be more able to perform our duty. I will try to do all I can to go on and prepare ourselves for harder tasks; for I do feel we can do a glorious work. I think we are progressing nicely. We are not progressing so fast in numbers; but in the interest of our church work. It seems as though every time we meet, we all feel more encouraged in our work. We have made twenty-five yards of carpet and sold it. I feel some better when I think we have done even that much for the cause of Christ. I hope we may keep on and still do more."

Mapleville, Md.—"We held our society meeting here in Mapleville, last Sunday. It passed off very pleasantly, and all seemed to enjoy it. We cannot make our programs very lengthy, for though we have quite a nice number of members, we have only four public workers. The subject taken up last Sunday was Christian giving, and the money side of the S. S. C. E. After the devotional exercises, sister Annie Emmert, of Hagerstown, read the latter part of the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, beginning at the 16th verse. Our Sec., sister Patsy Cross, read the minutes of the preceeding meeting which she had gotten up in good form and made quite interesting. My sister, sister Minnie Wagner, then read the Treasurer's report, and in connection with it, a statement of the object and purposes of the S. S. C. E., and the disposition to be made of the funds. I then read an essay on "Giving for Mission Purposes." Sister Patsy read an essay entitled "Christian Giving," and I read a selection, "Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box." We hope to have more workers after awhile; and then we can have a more varied and interesting program. Our sisters have been unaccustomed to public work. We have nearly all been rocked in Dunker cradles, and they are very silent cradles you know. I am very much interested in the S. S. C. E., and am giving it my best efforts. It occupies much of my thoughts and prayers."

Montana, Kan.—'I have read of some plans which are practical in many places, but will not be a success here in the country, and where people are generally not educated to such work. I believe, however, we can make a good report as the average western society will make. We organized on Sunday, April 29, 1888 with a membership of twelve. Our next meeting was May 6th, and we received twelve more members. The society has met twice a month on Sunday at 4 P. M. The program was of a literary nature, essays, recitations, Scripture reading, suggestions and music. We always enjoyed the meetings, and had quite a good attendance most of the time. On last Sunday, Sept. 2, we voted a change in the manner of conducting our work. Our plan for the future will be something like the following: Meet once a month on Saturday at 1 P. M. Have open exercises and a limited amount of literary work. After that we will engage in sewing for any body, and any kind of sewing at a stated amount per member. A fine to to be imposed upon any member not being present without a lawful excuse. We have already a nice donation of carpet rags from which we expcet to realize something. Now, as I am presiding officer, it seems that many in the society look to me to make the plans. I cam not always think of practical answers to their questions. For instance, one of the little girls came to me Sunday and said, "what can we little folks do to help you?" We want to come to your society and we want something to be making money, too. Likewise the men, our honorary members, seem as enthusiastic as many of the voting members. By the way, we have members of the society who are members of other churches. We also have a number of first-class members who make no profession at all. Upon the whole I feel encouraged." Written latter. "Our Treasurer has gone to Ind. on an extended visit. I do not know whether she sent in the money due the National Treasury or not. Hope she did so that we will be noticed in the Oct. report. We are meeting once a week at present and sewing. Think we can raise the required amount to retain our minister."

M. M. STERLING.

Nov. 19, 1888.

Our First Dollar.

(BY PERMISSION.)

May 20, 1888.—"I have been reading the EVANGELIST some, and have read of the S. S. C. E. And as I am *one* of the isolated members of the Brethren church, I am pleased to know that our sisters have taken hold of such a noble work. I understand that their main object is to raise funds to send Brethren ministers to preach where there are isolated members; also where our doctrine has not been preached at all. It is certainly a grand work, and I hope much good may be done. I know if isolated members would be as pleased to hear one of our brethren preach occasionally as *I* would, they would be willing to help do what they could to support such a society. I do not know that there are any of the Brethren church now any nearer me than Waterloo, and that is about thirty miles. And so I have to spend most of my time and strength working as a seamstress to support myself. I do not know what I would do to help advance the S. S. C. E., only in giving a little as God prospers me. Please find enclosed one dollar to be used for the cause of the Society. Please do not publish *this*, or if you would care to publish *a part* of it, do not make mention of my giving the money. You may say, if you *wish* to, that I am willing heart and hand to do all I can to advance the cause of the S. S. C. E. Hope the Lord may help us all to do his will. Pray for me. I would be pleased to hear from some one of the Sisters."

M. M. STERLING.

Nov. 22, 1888.

There is no Excellency Without Excessive Labor.

Essay read by Sister Lillie Moser.

Labor is ordained for us. God said to Adam, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Thus we see from the earliest period of creation and on down through cycles of ages to the present time man was destined to labor, and so it will ever be, as long as this world is inhabited by the human family and they are endowed with muscular power and reasoning faculties.

Life and its possibilities are before us whether it be to achieve distinction and the applause of the world, or whether it be to fill some humble sphere in God's great universe all depend upon each individual effort. That which is accomplished in life is attained through labor and energy. In order to excel in any calling there must necessarily be excessive labor. Honor and greatness are not won in a day, neither is the top round in the ladder of fame reached at a single bound, but they are gained step by step through years of unceasing toil and sacrifice.

Labor is heaven's great ordinance for human improvement. Generally speaking the lives of all truly great men have been lives of intense and incessant labor. They have commonly passed the first half of their life in obscurity and humility, overlooked, scorned and ridiculed by weaker men, thinking while others slept, reading and improving the moments others wasted.

Their ambition ever urging them on to greater efforts, feeling within them that in time to come they should by some little accident burst out into the light and glory of public life, rich with the spoils of time, mighty in all the labors and struggles of the mind. In the lives of these great men there was no such word as fail. There was no obstacle too great to be surmounted, no difficulty too great to be overcome, no discouragements so great that they did not see success lying beyond. They started in life with a distinct purpose in view and to the accomplishments of that purpose all their time, energies and toil were given.

Without labor there is nothing accomplished or gained. While this is true of the natural life it is also true of the spiritual life. In order that the church and Sabbath School may attain to that degree of success and excellency they should, there must necessarily be excessive labor, God has given each of us a work to do. Then let us labor either with the brain, or the heart, or with the hand.

"Work, and pure slumbers shall wait on thy pillow;
Work, thou shalt ride o'er cares coming billows;
Lie not down wearied neath woes weeping willows!
Work with a stout heart and a resolute will!"

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, } ss.
LUCAS COUNTY, S. S. }

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FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. '86.

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the same remedy. I gladly offer this testimony for the benefit of all similarly afflicted."—F. H. Hassler, Editor *Argus*, Table Rock, Nebr.

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Time Table taking effect Sept. 2, 1888

EASTWARD.

7:00 A. M., No. 12, daily, New York Express, for Elmira, Philadelphia, Albany, Boston and New York. Pullman buffet sleeping coaches for Albany, Boston and New York without change.

2:05 P. M., No. 4, daily, St. Louis Limited for Jamestown, Hornellsville, Elmira, Binghamton and New York. Pullman buffet sleeping coaches for New York.

1:01 A. M., No. 8, daily, New York Express, for Jamestown, Hornellsville, Elmira, Philadelphia and New York Pullman buffet sleeping coach to New York, and Pullman buffet drawing room coach from Hornellsville.

5:35 P. M., No. 26, Accomodation, stopping at all stations, daily, except Sunday.

9:04 A. M., No. 28, daily except Sunday, Galion to Kent, stopping at all stations.

WESTWARD.

5:29 A. M., No. 1, daily, Chicago and Cincinnati express. Pullman buffet sleeping coach to Cincinnati.

12:07 P. M., No. 5, daily, Chicago and St. Louis Limited. Pullman buffet sleeping coach to Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis without change.

8:33 P. M., No. 3, daily, Pacific Express. Pullman buffet sleeping coach for Chicago, also Pullman sleeper for Cincinnati.

5:35 P. M., No. 7, Accomodation, daily, Kent to Galion stopping at all stations.

9:40 A. M., No. 11, daily except Sunday, Kent to Galion, stopping at all stations with connections for Columbus

1:20 P. M., No. 27, daily except Sunday, Kent to Galion, with connections for Columbus, stopping at all stations.

W. C. Rinerson, Ass. Gen. Passenger Agent, Cleveland, O.
E. B. Thomas, Second Vice President, Cleveland, Ohio.

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